

Disability Theory Midterm Write-Up

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Cell 1:

The first panel is an establishing shot of the characters of the comic. Eugene, the scientist, stands before his first creation or “trial”. The creation is a blank mass with a humanoid form, containing the aspects of a normative human body, as per the scientist’s wish. The creation stands idle in a tube meant to sustain them during their development and keep them in stasis. Eugene marvels at his creation and declares the intent to conduct further trials in pursuit of a perfect lifeform. Part of his standards of a perfect lifeform are according to his frame of logic that he generalizes.

Cell 2:

Continuing with the second cell, Eugene lists tasks meant for the creation to complete. Here, the scientist’s intentions of the creation are introduced as Eugene plans to use the creation as a servant, created to follow his whims with efficiency and obedience. The creation's fate is to assist in the synthesis of what the scientist believes to be a superior version of himself. The tasks themselves are meant to be logical in the eyes of the scientist, a concept he finds especially poignant. The scientist will use the DNA of the creation, pick them apart for analysis of their imperfections, make improvements accordingly, and continue repeating the process for further trials until he is satisfied and achieved his goal.

Cell 3:

In the third cell, the scientist orders the creation to retrieve a beaker from a higher elevation with stairs. Instead of returning with the beaker by going down the stairs, the creation instead decides to use the side of the steps that forms a ramp. The scientist comments on the

action as illogical considering the stairs are the more functional option from his perspective. The creation demonstrates their first instance of flexible thinking in this panel, interpreting Eugene's request by forming their own idea of how the task should be done. There's room to explore why the creation chose to descend the steps this way. One interpretation to be made is that the creation is made such that their legs are unsuitable for the effort of traversing steps. There can be an interpretation of neurodivergence in which the creation's brain functioned such that they performed an alternative method and came to a different conclusion of how to descend, instead finding the railing as more favorable.

Cell 4:

The fourth cell depicts the creation holding a flower out to Eugene, offering it to him. Eugene reprimands the creation for this action initially, considering they are disobeying the orders they received. Despite feeling a sense of frustration at what he believed to be an illogical act, he thanks the creation. The creation demonstrates another instance of flexible thinking, forming their own thoughts and conducting their own actions according to their wishes instead of the predetermined wishes of the scientist. When the creation deviates from the wishes of the scientist, it isn't out of any form of malice, but instead kindness, appreciation, and curiosity. The subtext of this moment is that the creation went to get Eugene a flower as a sign of gratitude. Despite being currently used as a tool by the scientist to create another version of themselves thought to be superior, the creation holds care for the scientist. The scientist gave the creation life, and the creation is enjoying it, experiencing nature in a pure form as opposed to artificially synthesized. Here, the creation can be thought of as truly aware and assured of their existence,

looking at the flower and having a sense of wonder at the marvel of life. The creation seeks to share that marvel by offering the flower to the scientist.

Cell 5:

The fifth cell is a change in tone from the one's prior, with no dialogue present and instead a close image on Eugene as he looks to the plan of conducting his second trial in his right hand and the flower in his left hand. To the left of the panel, with the trial 2 plan in his hand is the criteria he set out for what he thinks the perfect lifeform should be. To the right of the panel with the flower he received stands the creation themselves in the background, holding the bird that was staying on them from their trip. The panel reflects the inner turmoil of the scientist as he grapples with choosing between his pursuit of the perfect lifeform and conducting continuous trials, or embracing the natural state of life and in extension, the creation. The scientist's initial perspective of the creation as a defective prototype meant to be temporarily used and ultimately replaced, is being challenged by seeing the genuine value and worth the creation holds as not just a failed attempt, but as a friend.

Cell 6:

In the sixth and final cell, Eugene makes his decision and throws out his plan to make a second trial. Eugene, with a newfound appreciation for the creation, gives them the name Sunny based on the sunflower they gave him. He dons the flower on his goggles as decoration of sorts, cementing his cognitive shift in embracing the natural beauty of life. Instead of conducting more trials, Eugene adjusts his project to now involve improving upon the laboratory. Eugene in this instance no longer thinks of lifeforms in terms of having a golden standard to be molded into, but

instead a matter of differences in navigating the environment before them. He also displays a form of care to Sunny by personally helping them clean off the dirt of the day and allowing them to rest after their hard work.